RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I am deeply conscious of the criticisms that have been urged by my honourable colleagues on the other side of the House. The honourable member Mr. Janardanan Nair and my friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai drew the attention of this House to the statements contained in the Audit and Appropriation Report of the year 1115. In fact the audit did reveal certain material irregularities in the conduct of affairs of the Kundara Factory and Government have taken and are taking the necessary steps to cure the defects pointed out in that report.

In regard to the management of the factory, Government have not been slow to improve matters and I may assure honourable members of this House that the affairs of this factory are engaging the very serious attention of Government especially in view of its great potentialities. It is really a valuable asset, the proper utilisation and development of which is one of the primary considerations of Government and no effort will be spared in seeing that matters are set right.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 58,990 under Demand X—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—INDUSTRIES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries. The House is well aware of the activities of the Department of Geology in the matter of prospecting work carried on with regard to mica and graphite. In the course of prospecting work several unforeseen difficulties have arisen, especially at Vattiyurkavu where although a lateritic stratum was expected, huge boulders of solid granite have been formed. Similarly at Mangaram the walls of the shaft for about a depth of fifteen feet were quite strong and firm, but when further depths were reached, they were found to be soft. The result is that in spite of the utmost possible economy exercised, the work cannot be carried out further without additional expenditure. I may in this connection point out that the works so far have yielded very good results and about thirty tons of mica and about sixty-five tons of graphite have already been won. I need hardly say that mica is a very valuable material for war purposes and increased production of this commodity is a valuable contribution to war efforts. I hope the House will grant the demand.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know the approximate quantity that the mines could yield this year?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That will depend upon the winning of good quality mica. We have already got good strata of mica.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges.

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This grant is intended for a purpose which unfortunately has arisen as the result of unexpected developments in the International situation. I need hardly remind the House that in Burma, Malaya, and Singapore very large number of Travancoreans have been employed in one capacity or other and that owing to the recent turn of events many of them have had to come back or be evacuated into Travancore. From the moment the necessity arose for the evacuation of these people out of these areas, the Government of Travancore have been anxiously following the course of events and every attempt was being made to get into touch with the evacuees in order to bring succour and relief to them. We have set up an agency to collect statistics in regard to the number of persons so evacuated and the number of Travancore subjects coming into Travancore from those areas. We have also instituted an agency in order to find out how many among them are poor requiring real assistance immediately and, as a first step, Government have allotted a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the relief of these refugees. Government are aware that the sum of Rs. 5,000 now asked for will certainly not be sufficient for this purpose. But a small beginning is made and I may assure the House that Government are fully alive to the very serious situation before us in this respect. As soon as correct and accurate statistics are made available as to the need and extent of help required, Government will have no hesitation in providing additional funds on this account. I therefore hope and trust that this honourable House will grant this small sum of Rs. 5,000 as an initial grant for the purpose I have dealt with.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: May I know the number of evacuees that have so far arrived in Travancore?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Between 400 and 500, so far as information is available.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: May I know whether we can communicate with those who are at Malaya and Singapore?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is a very difficult question for me to answer and as I have already told the House a little while ago, this is a matter which we have taken up with the Government of India Overseas Department.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether this amount is expected to be spent within the State or outside?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: This amount will be spent within the State. I may point out that the other day a batch of evacuees, about six in number, came to my room. They belong to Colachel and they were really in need of assistance and arrangements were at once made through the Division Peishkar and the Tahsildar of the place to see that they were provided with food and clothing at least for the time being. Employments will be provided for those who were able to work.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Have we not set apart a sum for distress relief?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: That is for Shertallai.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether this amount will be realised from those who are in a position to repay them?

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RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The present advance is not intended as a loan. This is intended as a contribution to meet cases of extreme necessity and the advance of loans will be dealt with separately.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 5,000 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous Charges was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXX—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS—STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN (*Secretary Stores Purchase Committee*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,310 under Demand XXX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Stores Purchase Committee. In explanation of this, I may say that in the budget provision of 1117, provision was made for the Repair Section only for six months. It was considered at that time that it is not advisable to continue this Department without watching its career for a longer period. Now Government are satisfied about its usefulness after watching its work for the last six months. Further, owing to the present war situation when it has become absolutely necessary for us to manage our need for scientific instruments by repairing rather than by new purchases every time, it has been found very profitable to continue the Repair Section attached to the Stores Purchase Committee. So request that this grant be passed.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഇവിടെ സ്റ്റോർപർച്ചേസ് ആഫീസിനകത്തു് ഇതൊക്കെ റിപ്പയർ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യമുണ്ടോ?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: ഇതിന് അധികം സ്ഥലമൊന്നും വേണ്ട. ഇവിടെ സ്റ്റേഷനറിയിൽ ഒരു റിപ്പയർ സെക്ഷൻഉണ്ട്. കുറെ ജോലികൾ അവിടെ നടത്താം. പിന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രസ്സിൽ ഒരു മുറിയുണ്ട്. അവിടെ ഒരു മെക്കാനിക്കൽ സെക്ഷനുമുണ്ട്. കുറെ ജോലി അങ്ങനെയും നടക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രസ്സിലുള്ളത് പ്രസ്സിൻറെ ആവശ്യത്തിനല്ലേ?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: അല്ല. സ്റ്റോർ പർച്ചേസ് കമ്മറിക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായിട്ട് ഒരു സെക്ഷൻ അവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN: സ്റ്റോർപർച്ചേസ് കമ്മറി ഇതിനകം എന്തെല്ലാം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: ചില്ലറ റിപ്പയറുകൾ അനവധി നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. തിയാഡലൈറുകൾ, ലെവലുകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച റിപ്പയറുകൾ ഒരു ഇരുന്നൂറുവരും. മറ്റു മെക്കാനിസത്തിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ളതു് ഒരു നൂറമ്പതു്. പിന്നെ മെഡിക്കലായിട്ടു് ഒരു നൂറെണ്ണം X-Ray മുതലായതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള റിപ്പയറും ഇതിലുൾപ്പെട്ടു.

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